B. Claim Listing

The following claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A table assembly for a bag filling apparatus, comprising:

(a) a bag support table having an upper surface for at least partially supporting a bag to be filled;

(b) at least one vibrating motor for vibrating the bag support table, the at least one vibrating motor being connected to the bag support table and being located below the upper surface of the table;

(c) a lifting device for raising and lowering the bag support table along an axis, the lifting device being located below said bag support table;

(d) at least one resilient connector through which the lifting device is connected to the bag support table, the at least one resilient connector damping vibrations produced by the at least one vibrating motor and transmitted from the bag support table to the lifting device;

(e) a base plate having an upper surface on which the lifting device is mounted;

(f) a mounting plate on which the bag support table is mounted, the mounting plate having an upper surface and a lower surface;

and

(g) ~~at least one~~ a guide member for guiding vertical movement of the bag support table; wherein ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ guide ~~members~~ member comprises an elongate member protruding vertically from the base and has an upper end which passes through an aperture in the mounting plate during lowering of the support table.

2. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 1, wherein the lifting device is centrally located below the bag support table.

3. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 1, the bag support table being mounted on the upper surface of the mounting plate through the at least one resilient connector and the lifting device being attached to the lower surface of the mounting plate.

4. (Currently Amended) The table assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one resilient connector is selected from the group consisting of spring supports and elastomeric supports.

5. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 4, wherein the at least one resilient connector comprises a plurality of spring supports.

6. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 5, wherein each of the spring supports comprises an axially extending spring having an upper end connected to the bag support table.

7. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 5, wherein each of the spring supports has a lower end connected to the upper surface of the mounting plate, and wherein the lifting device is attached to the lower surface of the mounting plate.

8. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 4, wherein the mounting plate is rectangular and the at least one resilient connector comprises a plurality of spring supports, with one said spring support positioned at each corner of the mounting plate.

9. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 8, wherein the upper surface of the bag support table is rectangular in a plane perpendicular to said axis and has four outwardly and downwardly sloping side walls extending from the upper surface to a lower edge,

wherein the bag support table has four corners at which the side walls converge with one another and with the lower edge, and

wherein each of the spring supports extends between one of the corners of the mounting plate and one of the corners of the bag support table.

10. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 9, comprising two of said vibrating motors which are at least partially enclosed in a hollow space defined by the upper surface and the sloping side walls of the bag support table.

11. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 1, wherein the lifting device comprises a convoluted air bellows.

12. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 11, wherein the convoluted air bellows has a top plate, a bottom plate and an expandable central portion

between the top and bottom plates, the top plate being secured to the lower surface of the mounting plate.

13. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 12, wherein the bellows has a central axis which is coincident with a central axis of the table mounting plate.

14. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 13, wherein the bellows is a triple convoluted air bellows.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a lower stop member for preventing downward movement of the bag support table beyond a lower height limit.

17. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 16, said lower stop member being located above the base plate and having a height which is substantially the same as that of the lifting device in a collapsed state.

18. (Previously Presented) The table assembly according to claim 17, wherein the lower stop member abuts both the base plate and the mounting plate when the bag support table is at the lower height limit.

19. (Original) The table assembly according to claim 1, further comprising at least one upper stop member for preventing upward movement of the bag support table beyond an upper height limit.

20. (Currently Amended) The table assembly of claim 19, wherein the bag support table is mounted on the upper surface of the mounting plate; wherein the table assembly further comprises at least one bracket attached to the lower surface of the mounting plate, [[each]] said bracket having a lower portion spaced from the lower surface of the mounting plate, the lower portion having an aperture sized to closely receive the upper stop member; and

wherein [[each]] said upper stop member comprises an elongate member having a lower end attached to the upper surface of the base plate, the elongate member extending through the aperture in the bracket and having an enlarged upper end having an area greater than an area of the aperture, such that when the bag support table is at the upper height limit the enlarged upper end abuts the lower portion of the bracket and is located between the lower portion of the bracket and the lower surface of the mounting plate.

21. (Original) The table assembly of claim 20, comprising two of said upper stop members attached to opposite sides of said base plate.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The table assembly of claim 1, further comprising ~~at least one~~ a support sleeve attached to the mounting plate, wherein ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ guide ~~members~~ member is slidably received in ~~one of~~ said ~~at least one~~ support ~~sleeves~~ sleeve.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The table assembly according to claim [[25]] 18, ~~further comprising at least one guide member for guiding vertical movement of the bag support table; wherein each of said at least one guide members comprises an elongate member protruding vertically from the base;~~

wherein [[each]] said lower stop member comprises a support sleeve attached to the mounting plate, wherein ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ guide ~~members~~ member is slidably received in ~~one of~~ said ~~at least one~~ support ~~sleeves~~ sleeve.

27. (Currently Amended) The table assembly according to claim 26, wherein ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ support ~~sleeves~~ sleeve extends downwardly from the lower surface of the mounting plate.

28. (Currently Amended) A table assembly for a bag filling apparatus, comprising:

(a) a bag support table having an upper surface for at least partially supporting a bag to be filled;

(b) at least one vibrating motor for vibrating the bag support table, the at least one vibrating motor being connected to the bag support table and being located below the upper surface of the table;

(c) a lifting device for raising and lowering the bag support table along an axis, the lifting device being located below said bag support table;

(d) at least one resilient connector through which the lifting device is connected to the bag support table, the at least one resilient connector damping vibrations produced by the at least one vibrating motor and transmitted from the bag support table to the lifting device;

(e) at least one upper stop member for preventing upward movement of the bag support table beyond an upper height limit;

(f) a mounting plate having an upper surface and a lower surface, the bag support table being mounted on the upper surface of the mounting plate; and

(g) at least one bracket attached to the lower surface of the mounting plate, [[each]] said bracket having a lower portion spaced from the lower surface of the mounting plate, the lower portion having an aperture sized to closely receive the upper stop member;

wherein [[each]] said upper stop member comprises an elongate member having a lower end attached to the upper surface of the base plate, the elongate member extending through the aperture in the bracket and having an enlarged upper end having an area greater than an area of the aperture, such that when the bag support table is at the upper height limit the enlarged upper end abuts the lower portion of the bracket and

is located between the lower portion of the bracket and the lower surface of the mounting plate.

29. (Previously Presented) The table assembly of claim 28, comprising two of said upper stop members attached to opposite sides of said base plate.

30. (Previously Presented) The table assembly of claim 1, comprising at least two of said guide members.

31. (Previously Presented) The table assembly of claim 1, wherein the base plate and the mounting plate are both rectangular and both have four corners, and wherein the table assembly includes four of said guide members, each of which extends from a corner of the base plate to a corner of the mounting plate.

32. (Currently Amended) The table assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ guide ~~members~~ member comprises a vertically-extending rod.